A

# REVIEW

OF THE

## Affairs of *FRANCE*:

Purg'd from the Errors and Partiality of *News-Writers* and *Petty-Statesmen*, of all Sides.

**Saturday**, June 10. 1704.

THE last Paper left off at the *Swiss* being always manag'd by the *French*, with the Artifice of Words, and gave an Instance in the Story of the *Franche Comté*, where the *Cantons* were most egregiously impos'd upon by the *French*, and at last banter'd by all *Europe*.

I cannot but be pleas'd to see the Publick Instance of the very same Practice happen to suit it self so exactly to the former; and 'tis exceedingly to my purpose, that the Account of it in our *Gazette* of *Monday* last, so well hits the Subject I am now upon.

The *Swiss Cantons* have demanded a Neutrality for *Savoy*; they have insisted upon this Demand as most reasonable upon sundry Accounts; as that they cannot see themselves surrounded by the *French*, as they are obliged to concern themselves in the Tranquility of *Italy*, and especially as they are engag'd to the Duke of *Savoy* by sundry Alliances and Treaties, obliging them to take that part of his Country into their Protection, or to assist him with a certain Number of Men, whenever it shall be Invaded.

The Reasons and the Justice of their Pretentions seem'd so plain, and above all, the Interest of the whole *Helvetick* Body was so much concern'd in it, that it pass'd with unanimous Zeal in all the petty Diets of the *Swiss*, that they should not suffer the *French* to take Possession of the Dutchy of *Savoy*.

The *French* Ambassador, Monsieur *Puisieux*, Treated them with Memorial Letters, and Representation, one in the neck of another, full of soft Words and smooth Expressions, of the Respect and Consideration his Master had for the Laudable *Cantons*, till at last the *Swiss* desired a Positive Answer, with the Addition of the usual Compliment in such Cases, *of being obliged to take other Measures*, and the like; After a necessary delay for the sending and return of Couriers to *France*, the Ambassador presents the Assembly a Letter, wherein he tells them, his Master desires to know what they mean by a Neutrality; this most People took as it really was, and thought the *Swiss* would have seen themselves Mock'd.

In this Interval, the Duke of *Savoy* Retakes the Dutchy of *Savoy*, from the *French*, and beat their Troops out of every part of it, the Castle of *Chamberry* only excepted; had the *Swiss Cantons* been resolv'd in their Measures, then had been their time to have entered their Forces into *Savoy*, which the

would, no Question, have consented to; and if they had done so, the *French* must have desisted their Claim, and have left it in their hands, or have Declared against the whole *Helvetick* Union, which he would not willingly have done.

I cannot but think that the *Swiss* discovered so much of their unsteady Resolution in this Case, that the *French* Insult them upon it; and it is to be observed, that ever since that opportunity was lost, and the *French*, upon the Retreat of the Marquis *de St. Reme* with the Troops of *Savoy*, have Recovered what they had before, *viz.* Possession of the Dutchy; they have slighted the Offer of a Neutrality, and Treated them after a different Manner; and now, as our Gazette observes, he has sent to satisfy them by this extraordinary Concession, that to Convince them he has not the Design they fear in his Head, he will engage under his Hand, that he will not Annex the Dutchy of *Savoy* to the Crown of *France*, tho' on a Peace it should be agreed to be Granted to him.

This is a Jest so Gross, that they who can be dull enough to have such a thing put upon them, need no Fortified Towns upon their Frontiers; the World need never ask why the *French* King has not Fortified on the edge of *Switzerland*, equal to other Parts of his Kingdom; what need of fighting with Men, that may be Bully'd or Wheedl'd out of any thing we want?

This is a Confirmation to me, that the *Swiss* are no Conjurers; and that 'tis not for no bing they banter them and laugh at them so in *France*, that to call a Man a *Swiss* is to call him a Blockhead, and is taken accordingly.

The Memorials delivered to the Diets by the *French* Ambassadors, of which all our Monthly Accounts are very full, are a sufficient Testimony of this Matter; and the present Possession of the Dutchy of *Savoy* is the Experiment.

However, after all that has been said, the *French* were far from being Naked on that side, having two exceeding strong Places, advanc'd a great way into *Italy*, *viz.* this we are upon of *Pignerol*, and *Casal* upon the *Po*.

The Latter the Duke of *Savoy* took by a long Siege, and at the Surrender, agreed to Demolish the Fortifications, which the *French* have now repaired again.

The former the *French* Conceded to the Duke of *Savoy* at the last Peace, not supposing he would ever venture to divide his Interest from them again.

And this I presume is one Principal Reason, why *France*, who seem'd under some disadvantage on this side, takes such Effectual Care to make up all the Deficiencies, by maintaining the Superiority of its Forces in the Field; and after all that we have hop'd for in that Case, I am sorry to find that what I have suggested in the beginning of these Papers, tho' I pretend to no Spirit of Prophecy, is apparently too true, that the King of *France* finds no want of Men or Money to carry on the War, and that in every Place he Acts of Offensively.

The March of the *Germans* thro' the *Milanese*, the Return of the Duke of *Savoy* to the Alliance and Interest of the Confederates, are great things, 'tis confess'd: without the last, the *Germans* must long ago have left *Italy*; and without the first, the Duke of *Savoy* must quickly have fled from *Turin*, and abandon'd his Country to the *French*.

But with all these Advantages, we see the Duke *de Vendosme*'s Army Recruited by Sea, which, with submission to some Mens Conduct, might have been prevented; and we find the Duke of *Savoy* have a *French* Army before him, Superiour to all his Forces put together; at the same time, another *French* Army behind him, under Duke *de Feuillade*, Attacking the Fortress of *Susa*, which is the Principal Pass into his Country; and which if taken, he is entirely inclos'd between two Armies.

So true has all I have hitherto Advanc'd, as to the Grandeur of the *French*, been made appear, by the unhappy Consequences.

# ADVICE from the Scandalous CLUB.

OUR last Paper unhapily has Embark'd our Society in State-Affairs, occasioned by a Censure pass'd on a Certain Person, who took upon him to banter the March of the *English* Army into *Germany*.

We have nothing to do to Debate the Matters of State, nor does our Society pretend to Concern themselves in the Defence of National Proceedings.

But 'tis these Mountebank States-men that is their peculiar Province; and with them they may have Liberty, 'tis hoped, to use some freedom.

First the Society concludes, That because we have not been used in this Nation, to take many very good Steps, therefore these People conclude we never shall, ——and this they Condemn as a wrong way of Arguing, and the Conclusion to be Scandalous and Offensive.

But the Author was Ordered to tell these Gentlemen a Story, which, whether the Fact be true or not, is not Material, but the Moral nevertheless is good.

When the fifth Monarchy Men made a Ridiculous Essay *here*, with 25 Men *to fight the Lord against the Mighty*, and rais'd a Rebellion against King *Charles*, for the Restoring of King *Jesus*, as they term'd it; as an old Woman, who was a Private Friend to the Design, was talking with some People in the Street, the Morning they were Defeated, every body was crying out, it was a Senceless, Mad Action, unaccountable and prepostrous; *Ay*, says the old Woman, *That's True*, but what should we have call'd it, if it had succeeded?

Now we are to ask these Gentlemen, You call this March of the *English* Army, a Mad unaccountable Action, but what will you call it if it succeeds?

It is not our Business to judge of the Action, unless we had known the Reasons; but this is apparent to all the World, that there is nothing else left to save the *German* Empire, and if this should save it, all the World will allow it to be the greatest Attempt of an *English* Army, that ever was made in the World.

'Tis plain the Secresie with which this March, and the Conjunction of so many Troops with him is Concerted, has chang'd the Scene of *Europe*, and more uttered the *French* Measures than any Action in our Age: For as all the World at first expected only a Camp on the *Moselle*, and began to talk of the Siege of *Thionville*, or *Metz*, on the Frontiers of *Lorrain*; so 'tis plain the *French* expected us there, by the Counter-March of their Troops, and the Duke *de Villeroy*'s following them so slowly.

When from thence they found them Advance to the middle *Rhine*, and more towards *Philipsburgh*, and a Body of *Prussians* and *Lunenburghers* draw together there to joyn them: away comes the Mareschal *Tallard*, re-passes the *Rhine*, sends to the Duke *de Villeroy* to Halt on the *Moselle*, and both together March afterwards to cover *Landau*.

As this lost the Duke *de Villeroy* 5 days, so they saw themselves in the Dark again, when they found that the Duke of *Marlborough*, contrary to all imagination, bends his whole Force to the *Danube*.

What their next Measures will be, time only will explain; but this is most Certain, that even the *French* themselves allow it is unexpected, and an Attempt of the Greatest and Bravest of these Ages.

All this Discourse, something more Solid than this sort of our Paper generally Proposes, Issues in this;

That those People who Reproach an Action, before they either see the Reasons or the Success of it, neither show their Manners to the Government, nor their Sense of Affairs; and so are entered in our Minutes among the Busy and Impertinent.

*By Order of the Society.*

THE Authors of the *Post-Boy* are desired to Reconcile the two following Paragraphs in their *Post-Boy* of *June* 8. on pain of being

ing further Cenſured by the Club, as they ſhall deſerve.

*Poſt-Boy, June* 8.

" The Duke *de Vendoſme* has laid two " Bridges over the *Secchia*, as if he de- " ſign'd to Beſiege *Vercelli*.

In the ſame Paragraph.

" General *Davia* is Marching to meet " 6000 Recruits from the *Trentine*, to " Reinforce the Imperial Army on the " *Secchia*.

So that here muſt be two *Secchia's*, one at, or near *Vercelli*, and one near *Oſtiglia*, where that Imperial Army lies, that General *Davia* belongs to; or elſe the Duke *de Vendoſme's* laying Bridges over the *Secchia*, looks no more like a deſign to Beſiege *Vercelli*, than laying a Bridge over the *Thames*, would look like a deſign to Beſiege *Newcaſtle upon Tyne*.

The Gentleman who ſent the Society a Letter lately, from *Jacob's* Coffee-Houſe, with ſome Remarks in it on the *London-Poſt*, is humbly deſired to do the Society Juſtice, in a charge of Forgery, Printed upon them by the ſaid Author; and to let us know where he may be found, ſince in Caſe of an Indictment, his Evidence may be needful, with Relation to the P....ry or worſe Puniſhment.

Another Ingenious Author, who has ſent us ſome further Charge againſt the *London-Poſt*, ſubſcrib'd *J. J.* may hereby ſee how Terribly we are Threatned with forging Letters, and therefore we deſire to be excuſed from engaging with that formidable Perſon, unleſs the Gentleman will promiſe us his Aſſiſtance and Teſtimony, in Caſe of Proſecution.

Advertiſements are taken in by *J. Matthews*, in *Pilkington-Court* in *Little Britain*.

## *ADVERTISEMENTS.*

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AN Argument of a Learned Judge in the Exchequer Chamber, upon a Writ of Error out of the *King's-Bench*; in a Cauſe wherein Sir *Samuel Barnardiſton* was Plaintiff againſt Sir *William Soame*, Sheriff of the County of *Suffolk*, Defendant: Wherein the Privilege of the Houſe of Commons, in determining Matters relating to the Right of Elections of their own Members, is Juſtified; neceſſary for all Perſons that have any thing to do with Elections. From the Original MS. Printed for *George Sawbridge*, and ſold by *John Nutt*. *price 6 d.*

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†††. A Doctor in Phyſick Cures all the Diſeaſes and Indiſpoſitions in Venereal Perſons, by a moſt eaſie, ſafe, and expeditious Method; and of whom any Perſon may have Advice, and a perfect Cure, let his or her Diſeaſe be of the longeſt Date: He likewiſe gives his Advice in all Diſeaſes, and preſcribes a Cure. Dr. *HARBOROUGH*, (a Graduate Phyſician) in Great *Knight-Riders-ſtreet*, near *Doctors Commons*.